

Meeting Summary

KIN Expert Consultation for IPCC on the 2nd Draft of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

May 29th, 2026
KNMI in De Bilt



On May 29th 2026, KIN collaborated with the IPCC Acting Focal Point and the KNMI to organize an expert consultation about the IPCC 2nd Draft Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. This consultation served to facilitate the dialogue between (urban) policymakers, civil society organizations, researchers and other stakeholders with the Dutch authors and co-chair of this report. This report gives a summary of the meeting.

1. Introduction

With this expert consultation, KIN aimed to give various stakeholders from practice the opportunity to share their societal perspectives and practical knowledge with the authors of this report. By bringing together a wide variety of perspectives, this consultation is helping to improve the relevance and practical applicability of the Cities Report. In total 24 experts, 5 IPCC authors, 1 IPCC co-chair, 1 IPCC Acting Focal Point, 2 KIN organizers and 1 moderator were attending. All had registered in advance as IPCC expert reviewer for this 2nd draft report or signed a Non Disclosure Agreement stating registration as an IPCC expert reviewer after the meeting.

After a welcome by moderator Esther van Rijswijk, Mirko Lukács from KIN explained that KIN is organizing this expert consultation for the 3rd time to facilitate the dialogue between science, practice and policy makers. Bart Verheggen, the IPCC Acting Focal Point for the Netherlands welcomed everyone in the name of KNMI, the Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute, indicating that this consultation hopefully will be very helpful for the Government Review of this 2nd draft report that he will be coordinating.

After that, Prof. Dr. Bart van den Hurk, co-chair of the Cities Report, gave an introduction of the writing and review process as well as the outline of the report. Points brought forward included the following:

- Urgency levels, geopolitical pressures and perspectives differ by city and region
- This consultation and review process helps recalibrate action orientation, integration and inclusion
- There is a strong wish to make the report inspiring and activating
- Discuss jointly multiple aspects of urban climate: hazards, structure, impacts, and adaptation
- Address the connection between the solution and the way to engage in those solutions

2. Plenary Q&A

In the Q&A session following this introduction, Bart van den Hurk discussed initial questions and remarks as brought forward by the attending experts, including the following:

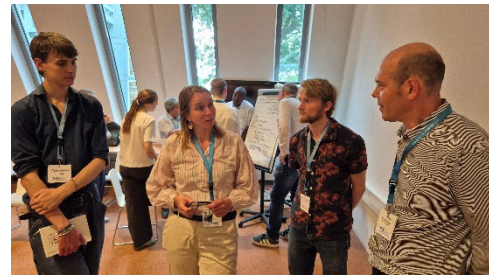
- Q: How to invest in sustainability and to ensure resilience for 100 years in a changing climate? The city has responsibility for the public infrastructure (forests, bridges, parks, etc.) with high maintenance costs. Current issue is that large-scale investments are needed for maintenance. Answers to this question in this report would be very useful. A: Yes, these issues are also being addressed.
- Q: What is climate change, and what does it mean for my city? How do we ensure that there is a timely response that is actionable? A: The report addresses these questions including acceleration procedures. The focus of the report has shifted from problem diagnosis to focus on solutions.
- Q: Is there enough evidence to support more coverage on solutions? A: This needs further development because solution and scenario

coverage are often still very abstract due to the difficulty and diversity in the types of cities and local contexts.

- Q: Does the report consider the use of language: doomism or optimism? A: It is the ambition to write the report more from an action-oriented perspective.
- Q: There is a lot of demand for input from grassroots organizations. Does the IPCC come back to them personally to facilitate the changes and solutions as proposed, or do they leave it with the policymakers? A: It is not possible to reach out to all individual stakeholders, but IPCC organizes group reviews and communication with mayors of different types of cities.
- Q: How do you envision the incorporation of indigenous voices in such an academic process? A: In chapter 1, 3 and 5 scholars are involved from indigenous knowledge systems to incorporate multiple voices. There is a mobilization of the involvement of indigenous peoples.
- Q: How much involvement has there been from indigenous communities (that are not scientists), which have valuable insights on climate justice and how to achieve it? Is there a plan to get them more involved? A: Every report starts with a scoping meeting where indigenous communities are represented. Yet this is a large, diverse group, so they do not have full coverage of course. For inclusion, their stories and case studies are included in the evidence and there is dedicated training on how to do this.
- Q: Will there be more focus on monitoring? A: Chapters 2 & 4 have an emphasis on monitoring.
- Q: Regarding the policy summary: will there be an effort to make it more accessible? Now it is still "very IPCC" and academic, while policy makers need it to be concrete, practical and clear. A: It is to be considered when the Cities Report is released, to make a Dutch "translation" that is more accessible and actionable for urban policymakers.

3. Author introductions and break-outs

Authors of the report present: Prof. Dr. Heleen de Coninck, Dr. Izidine Pinto, Prof. Dr. Niki Frantzeskaki, Dr. Nanco Dolman and Prof. Dr. Shuaib Lwasa. After the break, all authors were briefly interviewed on the chapter they were working on and what specific questions they are having for the experts. This was followed by a parallel break-out session, where each author had the opportunity to discuss specific questions and topics in smaller groups of interested experts. Some key points and take-aways in these sessions by author and chapter included the following:



Chapter 1 - Cities in the Context of Climate Change – framing of the report (Shuaib Lwasa)

- The use of city archetypes is useful.
- Take fragility of cities into account, such as cities at war and cities that are declining due to aging population or emigration.
- Solutions are a process: monitoring, process of co-creation, etc.
- It is essential to incorporate local knowledge into the solutions.

Chapter 2 - Cities in a changing climate: trends, challenges and opportunities (Niki Franzeskaki & Izidine Pinto)

- Power relations and especially the role of a city mayor influences climate change measures. The main responsibility of a mayor is safety. That includes resilience to climate change (and hence adaptation), but it does not include mitigation. Some text about power relations was included in the 1st Order Draft, but that has been removed in the 2nd Order Draft in response to review comments. Could be worth trying to get it back in.
- Autonomous adaptation (individual action/adaptation) is a trend cities face, for example people deciding to install air conditioning. This may have a trade-off on mitigation and Urban Heat Island effects. Individual action and Urban Heat Island are covered separately in the report, but this specific feedback of air conditioning on Urban Heat Island is not (yet) covered.
- Social trust (and the lack thereof) is important. The technology is available, but the social aspects (including trust) are often the limiting factor in the transition.
- A question to further look into is: what is the potential impact of social instability?

Chapter 3 – Actions and solutions to reduce urban risks and emissions (Nanco Dolman)

- Policy makers want to know about actions and solutions that really work.
- Long term and adaptive pathway planning is important, for example for heat stress and emergency situations.
- A lot of sustainable decision making in cities is made by citizens, for example on installing a heat pump or solar panels. Here cost effectiveness is looked at from the individual citizen perspective as opposed to the city or society cost effectiveness, which is a consideration for for example central heating systems. Politicians often put the citizen perspective in the centre for voting reasons.

- Solutions can be totally different by region, for example between the Global North and South.
- All presented solutions in the report are tested in practice and have a data steward, but the quality of available data can differ and it depends on the author to what extent the practical and bottom-up perspective is included in the analysis.
- Everyone is jumping on the solutions, but there is no one-way-fits-all: social and financial circumstances in particular play a major role in what type of solutions will really work.

Chapter 4 - How to facilitate and accelerate change

(Heleen de Coninck)

- With fragile cities a bottom-up approach is important
- Think about multilevel solutions: adaptation can also be green
- Co-create with stakeholders
- People make the difference
- Tailor the report to the people that most need it (e.g. with storytelling)
- There is a great need to adapt the report into practical guidance for different groups such as policymakers, businesses and local communities

4. Wrap-up and follow-up

Both authors and experts expressed during the meeting and during the well-visited drinks afterwards that this consultation was very useful and informative. Overall, this expert consultation underscored the need for continued dialogue between scientists and policymakers in order to better match these often different domains while speaking different “languages”.

In addition, there was strong consensus that the IPCC report contains a lot of very useful information and analysis, but that it should be made much more accessible to both policy makers and the wider public. Specifically, policy makers wish the report to be (1) more accessible in terms of language and (2) directly applicable to current issues they are facing, such as how to answer questions of sustainable investments in cities. Although no concrete action plan was derived, many would welcome a Dutch “translation” that is more accessible and actionable. The Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) will certainly be open to discuss and help facilitate any initiatives in this direction. This is in line of KIN’s mission to bridge the gap between science and practice in climate transitions.



Participant List

First name	Last name	Organisation
Camille	Aardening	Provincie Zuid-Holland
Tim	Bleeker	Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam
Edith	Camerik	Gemeente Zwolle
Myra	Colis	MABIKAs Foundation-The Netherlands
Heleen	de Coninck	WKR / IPCC Author
Lisanne	Corpel	Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
Anna	Devenish	Eindhoven University
Nanco	Dolman	Deltares / IPCC Author
Niki	Frantzeskaki	Utrecht University / IPCC Author
Daan	Herpen	Netherlands Scientific Climate Council
Anne-Marie	Hitipeuw	Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement
Daniel	Hogendoorn	Gemeente Amsterdam
Bart	van den Hurk	Deltares / IPCC Co-chair
Johannes	Lankester	Duurzame Gemeenschappen / NWO
Mirko	Lukács	NWO-KIN
Imre	Lukács	TU Delft
Shuaib	Lwasa	ISS - Erasmus University Rotterdam / IPCC Author
Bishawjit	Mallick	Utrecht University
Anna	Menyk	TU Delft
Marcel	Nijnatten	gemeente Breda
Izidine	Pinto	Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut / IPCC Author
Renate	Postma	Gemeente Zwolle
Annique	Quarles van Ufford	Amsterdam University College
Sem	Roefs	NWO / KIN

Esther	van Rijswijk	Self employed / Moderator
Rabia	Sheikh	Tipping Point Ahead / Utrecht University
Sacha	Stolp	City of Amsterdam
Bart	Verheggen	KNMI / IPCC Active Focal Point
Sara	Vermeulen	TU Delft and Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
Sofie	te Wierik	Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving
Ward	Wijndelts	Gemeente Amsterdam
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Meeting Notes & Summary

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